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THE AMERICAN FREEDMEN'S BULLETIN:

A JOURNAL FOR THE AMERICAN FREEDMEN'S AID COMMISSION

VOL. II.

CHICAGO, ILL., MAY, 1866.

No. 6.

TERMS.

The BULLETIN will be sent free to each person donating not less than \$5.00 to the American Freedmen's Aid Commission.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Single copies.....	12 numbers.....	\$1 00
Ten do	do	8 00
Fifty do	do	30 00

Circulation.....10,000.

THE AMERICAN FREEDMEN'S BULLETIN is designed to furnish such intelligence from the field of labor in the South as will best illustrate the physical, social and moral condition and wants of the Colored People; the nature and success of the work of the Commissions among them; and to note whatever of interest may transpire in connection with the Commissions in the North, and thus give to the public the data from which correct and intelligent views may be formed of the great work of benevolence that God has laid upon the American people.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS relating to the BULLETIN, to secure attention, may be addressed—"Rev. J. M. Walden, D. D., Box 2747, Chicago, Ill.," or "Rev. R. S. Rust, D. D., Box 932, Cincinnati, O.," Enclosures of money are at the risk of the senders.

Any accredited agent of the American Freedmen's Aid Commission is authorized to receive subscriptions and receipt for the same.

Officers of recognized auxiliaries are requested to interest themselves in extending our circulation. All lists of names, however, must be accompanied by the money.

EDITORS who may receive this paper occasionally or regularly, are respectfully requested to notice the Commission and its work, and to reprint extracts from our correspondence in the field.

We shall be glad to exchange regularly with any paper that does this.

Exchanges must be addressed "FREEDMEN'S BULLETIN, Box 2747, Chicago, Ill.," or "FREEDMEN'S BULLETIN, Box 932, Cincinnati, O."

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ANNUAL REPORT, N. W. F. A. C.

During the year ending March 31, 1866, the contributions for the benefit of the Freedmen received by the Northwestern Freedmen's Aid Commission have been as follows:

Cash paid into the Treasury.....	\$73,023 36
Stores received (estimated value)	21,408 87

Total receipts.....\$94,431 73

The stores have been estimated according to the valuation made by the parties donating or forwarding them, and include the cash price of the corn contributed in response to a special appeal for food.

The public has thus entrusted the Commission with means to accomplish a great and good work, and the Directory appreciating the trust and grateful for the privilege of laboring in a noble charity, would now respectfully submit their Report for the past year, that it may be seen how the money has been expended and the means of relief applied.

During most of the past year we have had access to every part of the Mississippi Valley. Our agencies have been located at important points in seven of the western slave states, which, at the beginning of the war, contained an aggregate of more than two millions of slaves, and must now contain more than two millions of freed people. The aim of this Commission from the first has been to combine in one work the relief and the elevation of this people—to mitigate the sufferings incident to their emancipation amidst the scenes of war, and at the same time to furnish them with the means of education which slavery had, so long and vigilantly withheld.

PHYSICAL RELIEF.

Throughout four years of desolating war, the privations and sufferings of the freed people exceeded those of other classes in the South, and since the cessation of hostilities, the number of the homeless and destitute among them has scarcely been decreased. While the North was rejoicing in the return of her war-worn heroes and our homes were everywhere made glad, the disbanding of the Rebel forces spread dismay among the freed people, and was followed in unnumbered instances by the expulsion of the aged and infirm, as well as of the wives and children of colored Union soldiers, from the plantations of their former masters. Hence the society that would successfully reach them with educational and moral agencies must bear to their needy and suffering ones the means of temporal relief. This has been an important part of our work, and we have mainly prosecuted it in two ways:

1. *By sending clothing and food to the needy.*
2. *By providing Asylums for the Orphan children.*

The clothing has mostly been distributed by our Teachers, who in addition to the duties of the school-room, visit among the people to ascertain where the means at their disposal may be most needed.

We have received and shipped 304 packages, valued at \$20,215 60. The contents have been distributed at Mobile, Montgomery and Selma, Alabama; New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Natchez and Vicksburg, Mississippi; Pine Bluff, Du Vall's Bluff, Little Rock and Helena, Arkansas; Clarksville, Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee; Paducah, Ky.; Warrensburg, Rolla, Louisiana and Hannibal, Missouri; Leavenworth and Fort Scott, Kansas; and Quincy, Illinois.

Coru has been shipped to Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, and distributed under the supervision of L. F. MELLE, Esq., of Cleveland, Ohio, delegated for that work by Gen. HOWARD.

In addition to the stores contributed, we have expended \$7,216 19, making the aggregate value of the means of relief furnished during the year, \$23,624 56. A portion of this has gone to mitigate the sufferings of helpless men and women, who, worn out by toil and infirm from age, were driven forth by the masters they could no longer serve. A larger portion has been applied to the relief of the families of colored soldiers, left without the means of support and prevented from earning a meagre livelihood, because of their loyalty.

ORPHAN ASYLUMS.

A large quantity of stores has been used in our Orphan Asylums, and a considerable sum of money has been expended in their support. The numerous class of children who have been made orphans by slavery and the war—orphans under the most painful circumstances—seemed to have a special claim upon the sympathies as well as the donations of the benevolent, that warranted special effort in their behalf. During the year we have extended some assistance to the Memphis Asylum founded by Mrs. CANFIELD; in September we became responsible for the support of the Vicksburg Asylum; for eleven months we continued the Natchez Asylum, until about the first of March, when it was transferred and united with that at Vicksburg; a few children have also been gathered together under our auspices at Mobile. The number of children within these Homes at any one time, has not been more than three hundred—but a great many have been temporarily cared for until homes were obtained for them in families either in the North or South.

SCHOOLS.

These efforts for the physical relief of the really destitute classes of freed people are at present indispensable, and will be needed for months to come; nevertheless, the work of education has become and must continue to be of first importance. Understanding, as the people of the North do, that the permanency of our Government and the peace and prosperity of our nation alike depend upon the education of the masses, it requires no argument to show that the education of the freed people, comprising one-third of the population of the South and one-eighth of the entire population of the country, is of paramount interest to us as a nation. But the South-

ern states are without any efficient Common School System; they have brought such poverty upon themselves by the rebellion, that they are not able to support schools for all; and it is now equally evident, that had they the means, there would be little or no disposition to extend the benefits of public schools to the colored children. Until the public sentiment in the South is revolutionized, colored schools must be sustained there by the co-operation of Northern benevolence with the freed people themselves—otherwise those who are children now must grow up in ignorance, and the worst results of slavery be prolonged to the next generation.

At the beginning of the year covered by this report, we had schools well established in most of the principal cities and towns in the Mississippi Valley then accessible to us. As other centres of population and influence have since opened to our operations, they have been occupied. It has been deemed best to give the greatest efficiency possible under the circumstances to this class of schools, as through them we have access to the most active and enterprising classes of the freed people; in them we have those pupils who may soonest be qualified to teach, and thereby prepared for that important part which every people must have in their own elevation.

LOCATION OF SCHOOLS.

During the year we have had schools at Helena, Pine Bluff, Du Vall's Bluff and Little Rock, Arkansas; Vicksburg, Natchez, Aberdeen, Pawpaw Island, Port Gibson and Rodney, Mississippi; Mobile, Montgomery and Huntsville, Alabama; New Orleans and De Soto, Louisiana; Memphis, Spring Hill and Chattanooga, Tennessee; Paducah, Kentucky; Rolla, Warrensburg, St. Charles, St. Joseph, Weston, Springhill, Sedalia and Columbia, Missouri; Atchison, Delavan and Fort Scott, Kansas; Chicago and Quincy, Illinois.

In these schools 127 Teachers have been employed; distributed among the states named as follows: 23 in Arkansas, 36 in Mississippi; 4 in Louisiana, 22 in Alabama; 15 in Tennessee; 8 in Kentucky, 13 in Missouri; 3 in Kansas, and 3 in Illinois. We have expended in this department of our work, \$47,578 45, including the salaries and expenses of our employees in the Orphan Asylums. The increase in our expenses resulting from the withdrawal of most forms of Governmental co-operation, has made it impracticable to place more Teachers in the field at the beginning of the present school year than we had in it at the last; but the work has been maintained with a good degree of efficiency at most of the points named.

Not more than five thousand pupils have attended our schools at any one time; but through the discontinuance of labors at some points and the organization of new schools at others, together with the frequent removal of the freed people themselves, we estimate that about ten thousand persons have received instruction from our Teachers during the year; and a very large proportion of these have learned to read—and the adult or child that has learned to read—is forever unfitted for slavery.

AUXILIARY AND BRANCH SOCIETIES.

Over two hundred societies in the West and Northwest sustain an auxiliary relation to this Commission. Most of these have only given their efforts to collect-

ing funds and stores, and in this way have rendered an invaluable service to the cause. Our auxiliary at Quincy, Ill., has been prosecuting a local work in behalf of the freed people who are congregated there in considerable numbers, among whom are many helpless ones. The ladies who compose that society have performed much hard labor during the past winter in caring for their needy beneficiaries. The auxiliary under the auspices of the Friends of Iowa, has placed nine teachers in Missouri and two in Kansas, and become entirely responsible for their support. They have recommended only the most efficient laborers to be commissioned—teachers who are accomplishing a good work for the Freedmen at several important points in Missouri.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY.

By the Report of the Treasurer, it appears that the cash receipts of the Commission for the year ending March 31st, 1866, were, in the aggregate.....\$73,023 39 and that the disbursements were..... 70,919 43 leaving a balance on hand of..... 2,103 93

The disbursements are classified as follows:

Schools and Teachers.....	\$47,578 45
Physical Relief.....	7,216 19
Office Expenses, including salaries of Cor. Sec'y, clerks, postage, office rent, etc.....	5,686 52
Printing, including 77,000 copies Bulletin.....	2,535 00
Collecting Agencies.....	7,903 27

Total, as above.....\$70,919 43

Adding to this the estimated value of the stores, including 1230 bushels of corn, \$21,408 37, we have, for the year:

Total Receipts.....	\$94,431 73
Total Disbursements.....	92,327 80
Cash on hand.....	2,103 93

Disbursements classified as follows:

On account of Relief Agencies.....	\$28,624 56
On account of Educational Agencies.....	47,578 45
On account of Executive Department, and all other items.....	16,124 79

Total, as above.....\$92,327 80

The entire work of the Commission since its organization, January, 1864, has been as follows:

Entire Receipts.....	\$227,641 81
Entire Disbursements.....	225,537 88
Divided thus:	

Expended on Relief Agencies.....	\$111,647 77
Expended on Educational Agencies.....	80,685 13
Executive Dep't, and all other items.....	33,204 98

Total Cash Receipts.....	\$153,533 49
Total Cash Expenditures.....	151,429 56

MORAL INFLUENCE.

Mention should be made of the moral influence which it has been the purpose of this Commission to exert through all its agencies. Combining in one work the physical relief and the education of the freed people, it was manifest that our teachers would acquire much greater influence than if they only labored in the school-room. This consideration alone would have prompted us to have great care in the selection of Agents and Teachers. Beyond this we were cognizant of the fact that our contributions would come from the Christian public, and largely through the agency of the Christian churches of the West and Northwest—and hence should be expended in consonance with the prevailing Christian sentiment, so as to promote the moral elevation of the freed people. This has been done by employing only Christian men and women as teachers and sending Bibles and Testaments to the Freedmen.

It has been the purpose of our teachers to engage in Sabbath school labors—to influence the old and young to observe the Sabbath and attend the public worship of God—to inculcate sentiments of respect for religion and exemplify its benign power by their own works of love. The number of children gathered into our Sabbath schools has nearly equalled that in the day schools, and many adults have had the Bible—the book they really prize above all others—read to them by teachers in their visits to their lowly homes. While to the Church may belong the work of sending missionaries and organizing Churches, we have regarded it as due to the sentiments of Christians who do most to sustain our cause, as well as to the freed people themselves, to direct all our agencies so as to commend religion and exert an influence favorable to the work of evangelization to which God is calling His people. No society of merely human origin is warranted in undertaking more; no society supported by a Christian public is justified in doing less.

R. W. PATTERSON, Pres.

J. M. WALDEN, Cor. Sec.

TREASURER'S REPORT, N. W. F. A. C.

The Receipts and Expenditures of the Northwestern Freedmen's Aid Commission, for the year ending March 31st, 1866, have been as follows:

RECEIPTS.		
1865.	April 1. Cash on hand.....	\$3,601 86
	Rec'd during mo. of April.....	2,858 47
	" " May.....	4,504 94
	" " June.....	5,923 81
	" " July.....	8,826 11
	" " August.....	7,778 58
	" " September.....	4,083 71
	" " October.....	4,024 25
	" " November.....	4,540 67
	" " December.....	11,102 48
1866.	" " January.....	4,458 59
	" " February.....	4,133 68
	" " March.....	7,181 21
		\$73,023 39

EXPENDITURES.		
Schools, Teachers and Asylums.....	\$47,578 45	
Physical Relief.....	7,216 19	
Collecting Agencies.....	7,903 27	
Office Expenses, Salaries, Traveling Expenses, Postage, Rent, Fuel, Expressage, etc., etc.....	5,686 52	
Printing, including Stationery and 77,000 copies of BULLETIN.....	2,535 00	
Cash on hand, April 1, 1866.....	2,103 93	

\$73,023 39

J. E. SUITTERLIN,
Accountant.

R. B. MASON,
Treasurer.

CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN FREEDMEN'S AID COMMISSION.

In order to secure an efficient union of those who labor to relieve and elevate the Freedmen, to protect the public against irresponsible collectors, to establish a common and efficient means of co-operation with the General Government, through the Freedmen's Bureau, in aiding the freed people to become industrious, intelligent and christian men and women, and to secure to this great work of benevolence, all the strength of harmonious action, and all the advantages of a General Organization, the following Constitution is adopted for the American Freedmen's Aid Commission:

ART. I. This Commission shall be composed of the Officers and Directors of the Western and North-western Freedmen's Aid Commissions, and of such other societies as may hereafter be admitted into this Commission.

ART. II. The business of this Commission shall be entrusted to an Executive Committee composed of three delegates from each constituent society, to meet annually on or before the first of May of each year, and at other times upon its own adjournment, or by the request of the Board of Directors of any constituent society, of which meeting ten days' notice shall be given.

ART. III. Sec. 1. The Executive Committee shall annually elect the following Officers, who shall be the officers of the Commission, viz: a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, a General Financial Secretary, and a General Field Secretary; and it shall define the duties of said officers in all cases where they are not defined in the Constitution.

Sec. 2. Decide all questions relating to the general policy of the Commission; divide and arrange the fields of collection and labor; appoint and commission all collecting agents; harmonize the action of the constituent commissions, and settle all matters of dispute between them.

Sec. 3. Provide and employ such other means, not in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution, as are needed to promote the object of this Commission—all collections to be made in the name of the A. F. A. Commission.

ART. IV. All moneys received shall go into the Treasury of this Commission, and after the payment of salaries and other necessary expenses, all moneys and goods shall be equally divided between the Western and Northwestern F. A. Commissions, until other societies shall be admitted, when such shall receive a *pro rata* division as agreed upon by the Executive Committee.

ART. V. Each constituent society shall appoint and control and be responsible for the support of its own Agents and Teachers in the South.

ART. VI. Teachers and Agents shall be accredited in the name of the American Freedmen's Aid Commission, their credentials being attested by the President and Secretary and countersigned by the Cor. Sec. of the constituent society from which they issue.

ART. VII. Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the Gen-

eral Financial Secretary, whose office shall be in Chicago, to use all practicable methods of increasing resources, to superintend the work of collection in the United States, and to have the supervision of Canvassing Agents and means (including the preparation of the BULLETIN) employed for the promotion of collections. He shall confer from time to time with the constituent societies or their delegates in this Executive Committee, and keep them advised as to the condition and progress of the work. He shall require such Reports from Collecting Agents, Superintendents and Teachers as are necessary for the prosecution of his work. He shall submit to the Executive Committee a Quarterly Report of the work under his charge, and furnish each constituent society with a copy of the same. He shall act under the direction of the Executive Committee, and be responsible to the same for his official conduct. He shall be *ex-officio* a member of said Committee.

Sec. 2. The General Field Secretary, whose office shall be in Cincinnati, shall superintend the work of the Commission in the South, and have the supervision of all Superintendents and Teachers, and all agencies for the education and physical relief of the Freedmen. When necessary, he shall visit the field and report the condition of the work in each district to the constituent society occupying it, and advise with the societies, severally, or with their respective delegates in this Executive Committee, as to the condition and wants of the work. He shall issue such rules and regulations as the constituent societies may approve for the government of Superintendents and Teachers, and require such Reports from them as will keep him advised as to the labor of the Teachers, and the size, condition and progress of the schools. He shall furnish the Executive Committee with Statistical and General Reports of the work under his charge, showing the operations of each constituent society separately, and shall furnish a copy of the same to each constituent society, unless it be published in the Journal of the Commission. He shall also be the Associate Editor of the BULLETIN, and shall labor under and be responsible to the Executive Committee, of which Committee he shall be *ex-officio* a member.

Sec. 3. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all moneys and goods received, recording the name and address of each donor where the same is given. At the close of each month, he shall, after paying the salaries and current expenses of the General Financial and Field Secretaries, and the current expenses of the Commission, (including the expenditures for the BULLETIN and other collecting agencies,) apportion the moneys and goods on hand to the constituent societies according to the directions of this Committee; notify them of the amount in their favor, and pay the same over to each society on the order of its Treasurer. He shall furnish a detailed Monthly Report of all the Receipts for publication in the BULLETIN, and make a Quarterly Report of all Receipts and Expenditures, copies of which shall be furnished to each constituent society, unless published in the BULLETIN.

ART. VIII. The Life Members of each constituent society shall be Honorary Members of this Commission, and entitled to a certificate from the same.

ART. IX. This Constitution may be altered or amended upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, with the approval of the constituent commissions.

BURNING OF SCHOOL HOUSES IN MEMPHIS.

The following account of the mob at Memphis, was written to Rev. Dr. Rust by the Agent of the W. F. A. Commission, on May 4th:

I telegraphed you yesterday the fate of our school-houses. I would have written you yesterday, but I was very sick; have been confined to my room during the past week. Yesterday I was compelled to leave my bed and hasten the teachers away from danger. Seventeen teachers left on the first boat up. The insults and threats of the mob were terrible, and their conduct toward the colored people was equal to the horrors of savage warfare. Many women and children were tied to their bedposts and their cabins burned down over their heads. Innocent colored men were deliberately murdered, and their bodies most outrageously maltreated after they were dead. Last night I remained at these headquarters, armed to the teeth, determined to "fight it out on this line."

The mob had determined to fire the buildings and murder every one connected with it, but fortunately re-enforcements arrived and the city was placed under martial law, and before midnight we rested safely under the protection of *loyal bayonets*. There were, however, a few negro houses burned, but most of the colored people had fled to the fort for protection. There were ten school buildings destroyed, including three churches. In all, twenty-four teachers were deprived of school-rooms. Our store-room, in which was stored all our supplies, including the entire outfit of the Soldiers' Home, valued at \$3000, with a large lot of Government property, was totally consumed. All but three buildings were Government property. The colored troops had just been mustered out—there were none to protect. The police, a miserable set of drunken cut-throats, were the instigators, assisted by rebels and blacklegs.

Gen. Runkle is eager to put up school-houses immediately; can furnish lumber for six or eight. We need funds immediately for labor and mechanics. I believe the college to be the best investment. An attempt was also made to burn it down, but the fire was extinguished. Cannot the friends of the Freedmen do something for them? They are now destitute of churches and school-houses. I trust God will put it into the heart of the liberal North to give freely and unstintedly. We hope and pray that before next September, there will be comfortable houses erected on the ruins of the old ones.

I raised funds enough to send the teachers home. Will send you my statements soon. I have been using so much quinine my head is unfit for work. I will be compelled to keep my bed to-day.

Very truly, etc.,

O. E. WATERS,

Ag't. W. F. A. Com

FROM NORTHERN ALABAMA.

SHELBY CO., ALA., April 8, 1866.

REV. J. M. WALDEN, D. D.:

MY DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter in which you say you have made a shipment of corn to my address, to be distributed among the poor. I can assure you, there can be no appropriation more needed or that will be as well appreciated at this time. The warm weather is coming on, and these poor people can get along without much clothing, but many are in great want of food, living from day to day with scanty supplies. If they can have corn and nothing else, *they can live*. It seems to be the "staff of life" with the people here. The Wilson raid coming through this section of Alabama last Spring, scattered the people and interrupted very much the planting of crops, and last season being unusually dry also, there was but little raised, and the people, both black and white, are dependent upon what is brought here from the North. Before receiving your letter, the people of Selma had contributed about 150 bushels of corn, and sent me, to have distributed among the needy blacks and whites, and I am doing so sparingly, on their making an affidavit of their need before a "Justice of Peace." Already some cases have come to my notice, which are but a specimen of the destitution of many families. A widow woman who applied, and whose statement was corroborated by several citizens, says: She has seven children, and they were three days without food, until she obtained a sack of corn, and "toted" it on her back seven miles to get it ground. If these people can be helped along a few months, and the crops do not fail this year, they will then be able to take care of themselves.

I find the Freedmen generally doing well, under the new order of things. I have not met a man within the last month but says he likes the free labor system, and begins to believe what I have always predicted, that there is more profit in a pecuniary point of view to hire and pay wages for labor, than to receive it free under the slavery system. The fortunes of war has brought most of the farmers, who were formerly rich and lived in ease, to take hold and labor for themselves, and to look much closer after the ways and means for obtaining a livelihood, than they have been wont to do; and although poor now, this kind of experience, with the great resources which can be developed here, this country will advance rapidly in material wealth. It only needs northern capital and northern enterprise to give it a start. Practical business men to come here and set the southern people good examples, will be "missionaries" in many ways. The sentiments of the people are changing so rapidly in Alabama especially, in their good will and friendship to northern people, that the kind of opposition which has been so much feared, and which has deterred capitalists from investing their money, and casting their lot among this people, will be almost entirely done away with.

My own personal experience has been to receive nothing but the most cordial goodwill and the greatest hospitality, and while the union sentiment is growing strong, and the good feeling toward the north increases, there is a better feeling and disposition toward the "Freedmen." They are sought for as laborers and paid good wages. They are treated in most respects as well as laborers at the north. There is certainly a growing interest in the education of the blacks. Already the public press is advocating both private and public schools for the Freedmen. The efforts of the Freedmen's Commissions of the north in sending teachers here, have called the attention of the people to this great want, and they see that if the Freedmen are educated they may lose the credit of doing it. I say, do anything to stimulate and carry on this great movement of introducing the "common school system" which has done so much for the north, and if established here in the south, will give the poor as well as the rich, the blacks as well as the whites, an opportunity to receive an education, and to become intelligent. Then this country will be prosperous, and that selfish tyranny and prejudice which has been the curse of the south, will disappear; and the pride of caste—all hostility toward any person whom God has created a man and given a home in these United States, will cease. Tell your Commissions to labor on in the good work begun in aiding the poor at the south, that every effort is like good seed sown in good ground and is sure to bear fruit.

I am, truly yours, L. F. MELLEEN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MOBILE, ALA., April 2d, 1866.

REV. J. M. WALDEN:

DEAR SIR: . . . Since recovering, I have attempted to make up for lost time, and feel that my labors are appreciated, and I hope successful. The weather has become more settled, and the school well attended. My department numbers at date 168, old and young, boys and girls, men and women. Some of them bright, smart and apt—others, the word "dull" would be a poor expression for. I am happy to say, however, that such cases are not numerous. I have taught them to write, and print, from the least to the greatest, and required them to write and spell their names daily, until now I have hardly a scholar who cannot do so without the least difficulty. It is astonishing to see how quickly and naturally they learn to write. I enjoy this exercise in my school very much indeed.

Our morning exercise of devotion is conducted by the superintendent, Mr. Branch. At nine o'clock all the departments meet in the assembly-room, where we have reading from the Bible, singing, and generally a few remarks upon some subject. Every second Friday we have rhetorical exercises in the same room. An incident of very especial in-

terest occurred during our usual exercise a few weeks ago. An old man, of more than sixty years of age, had, at my suggestion, and unknown to most of the scholars, committed to memory a little verse. When Friday came, after a few declamations, our Superintendent called Wiley Baldwin. Every eye was turned toward him in wonder, as he arose and made his way slowly down the steps. He took the old flag, and waving it, reverently repeated:

"No slave beneath that grand old flag!
Forever let it fly!
With lightning rolled in every fold,
And flashing victory!
God's blessing breathe around it;
And when all strife is done,
May freedom's light, that knows no night,
Make every star a sun!"

There was many an eye filled with tears, many a heart going out in prayer, not only for the gray-haired old man who stood before us, but for every man, woman and child of his race that is willing to accept the noble destiny of which that flag is an emblem to them. Yet these people are far from possessing their rights, and we can but wonder at the progress they make (despite their persecutions and trials they are forced to endure,) in the paths of morality and education.

Wiley has only been attending school for the last three months, and commenced with hardly knowing his letters. He now reads very well in the Second Reader, prints finely, and writes his name in a good plain hand, spells well, passably good in figures, and reads a chapter from the Bible to me, morning and evening.

He remarked the other day that he believed his prayer would yet be answered, which was, that he might master every word in the good book, and "dat is all he wishes on de top of dis earth," to use his own expression. Visitors at the college have been much interested in him, and several have requested his autograph, which he gives with a very satisfied and delighted air.

As he was on his way to school last week, he was met and accosted by a white man, one of the citizens of Mobile, in this manner: "Well, old man, where are you going with those books and that slate?" "To school," replied Wiley. "What use is such a place to you? Why, if I owned you I wouldn't allow you such nonsense; it isn't the place for you; you should be at work." "Now," said Wiley, "when you put a bridle on a horse, and lead him about, he is obliged to go just where you wish to have him, but let him break away from you, and he can run where he pleases. So it is with me. My bridle was taken off in March last, and now I can do as I please, if I do right." Saying this, he left our white man rather nonplussed at the impudence of the "nigger."

There has been two deaths in my department since I took charge of it. One, a little girl of seven years, who asked her mother (just as she was about to die) to read or sing

to her something she had heard at our morning exercises; she repeated some verses from the Testament, and also a few verses from some little hymn. The other was a young miss of sixteen. I was called to her bedside the day she died. Her mother said she had been begging to see me for three days, but they told her to wait until Sunday and they would send for me. (They did not suppose she was so dangerously ill.) So, in company with her father, I visited her. It was some moments before she recognized me, and when she did, she smiled so sweetly, and grasped my hand so lovingly, and said, "Oh Mrs. Snelling, I'm so glad you've come." I read a few chapters from St. John to her, sang and prayed with her, she joining with me. She asked if I thought she would go to Heaven if she should die. I told her if she felt that her sins were all forgiven, she would be accepted of God. She prayed very earnestly, and kept in prayer during my stay. A few hours after I left her, she passed to the spirit land.

I make an effort to visit my scholars in their homes as far as possible, and am always warmly and cordially received and welcomed. Much of my spare time is spent in reading and writing letters for them, and trying to hunt up relations. They seem anxious to have their entire families united, and show much love for each other. When my labors close here, I trust I can say, and feel, that I have done all in my power to lead them in the right path, and have been instrumental in leading some from their sins to God. Then shall I know my time has not been spent in vain among them.

I am, very respectfully,
Mrs. S. O. SNELLING.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., May 2, 1866.

REV. J. M. WALDEN, D. D.:

DEAR SIR: I rejoice to report our school in a prosperous condition. The number of pupils is rapidly increasing and the general interest is growing. The number present to-day is two hundred and eighty-two, and enough have come in, in the few days since I collected the data for my report, to swell our whole number to three hundred and eighty-eight, and still they come. The school is divided into four regular grades, each grade occupying a separate room, and all are in excellent order. No case of anything like severe discipline has occurred. A most commendable pride in taking care of the new desks is evinced by the pupils, and after nearly six weeks of constant use, you can count the whole number of visible marks upon them upon the fingers of one hand. There has also been a marked improvement in the neatness and general appearance of the pupils both old and young, and all seem to take pride in a good personal appearance.

The members of all the schools meet each morning in the chapel for devotional exercises, interspersed with singing. The Sabbath

school numbers about as many scholars as the week-day school, and is very interesting and profitable. I have secured for it from the Tract Society, one hundred copies of "The Freedman," and fifty copies of "The Freedmen's Journal;" for six months.

The Sabbath school scholars have united with the pupils in the week-day school, and purchased by subscription, a Mason & Hamlin's Cabinet Organ, worth one hundred and thirty (\$130) dollars. This is used both in the Sabbath school and the opening exercises of the week-day school. It is the property of the school, and is to be kept exclusively for the colored people, in charge of the Superintendent of the school, whoever he may be.

The colored soldiers have all been withdrawn from the place, and all the military we have left is a single battalion of the 16th Regulars.

I remain, yours truly, E. N. FERNALD,
Supt. F. S.

NATCHEZ, MISS., March, 1866.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have just returned from Rodney—distant from Natchez some forty miles up the river—where, under very favorable circumstances, a school has been opened for the Freedmen. The condition of the freed people at this point is very encouraging to every lover of the cause; and the interest and self-sacrifice displayed in the efforts to establish a school among them, reflects credit upon them. The matter having been suggested to them by the proper officers of the Bureau, they had procured a room suitable, and had it seated upon our arrival with Mrs. Sue A. Brockway, who remained as teacher. In the evening, the freed people assembled in the school-room, where I had opportunity of addressing them in regard to their interests. They were enthusiastic at the very idea of having an opportunity afforded them to avail themselves of some of the advantages of an education. By a systematic course of collections, they have already, by contributions of "widows' mites," secured more than enough to meet the board of teacher and current expenses of school for a month to come, and stand pledged in public meeting to do as much each month.

Yesterday, the school opened with a very encouraging attendance; and I could not but feel as I saw the interest depicted upon the up-turned faces of those before us, that God was calling us to labor for them. Here will be a pioneer missionary work to be done. To see Mrs. B. engage in her labors with Christian kindness and love, and witness the smiles given from many happy countenances in return, was to know that she had found her mission work in the new field.

More anon, D. W. KNOWLES.

LITTLE ROCK, March 10, 1866.

REV. J. M. WALDEN:

DEAR SIR,—I received yours of Feb. 22d, asking for a statement of the work here. I

have not been able to reply sooner. There are in Little Rock, six schools for Freedmen. One of these schools has been recently opened, and is attended principally by children, who come from some distance in the country. A pass has been granted them to cross the river for this purpose.

During the month of February, there were five colored schools, employing nine teachers. The whole number of names enrolled was 499. The total average was 341. This statement does not include the night schools, which would add perhaps 100 to the total enrollment.

Three of the six schools now in progress, are taught by Friends, who employ six teachers in the work. Two of these teachers have charge of the school formerly taught by Miss Garrison of the N. W. Com., in the Colored M. E. Church. It is a girls' school, and contains some of the brightest and most promising children in the place. Our own school is quite near and is attended principally by members of the same families—the girls going to the Methodist, and the boys coming to the Baptist Church.

In February, the enrollment at the girls' school was 114. The average attendance was 83. In our boys' school the enrollment was 104. The average, 80.

The Friends have six Government buildings assigned them to be used for an Orphan Asylum, and for school-rooms. These buildings are located in a part of the town in which no school had been taught heretofore. And the consequence of opening up the work there has been to reach a large class of ignorant and destitute people, many of them having recently come in from the remoter South, and having had no previous opportunity for instruction. Miss Griswold of the N. W. F. A. Com., teaches in the same quarter of the town. Sixty-two orphans find a home in the Asylum. Such of the orphans as are of suitable age, attend school—to this school other children are admitted. In February, the average attendance at this school was 99. It is partially graded and employs three teachers. An industrial school is also taught in connection with the Asylum. There are in all eleven persons from the Friends' Society, connected with the Freedmen's work in Little Rock.

Mr. Brady, Pastor of the Col'd M. E. Church, teaches a school numbering about sixty-five pupils. He is not commissioned by any association, but depends solely upon tuition collected from his pupils for remuneration.

One hundred and seventy-five dollars were collected in all of the schools for tuition in February.

Mr. Colby, the new State Superintendent of schools, has arrived and has begun to visit the schools.

I had almost forgotten to mention that two night schools are being taught.

You may be interested in hearing that we meet with no open opposition to our work, from the citizen.

A society has been organized by the South-

ern clergymen and laymen of this city, having for its object the spread of the Gospel in our vicinity. The leading members have always been rebel sympathizers. They are now interesting themselves in giving religious instruction to the colored people. They applied to the Friends for rooms in which to hold their meetings for this purpose.

Respectfully,

PHEBE L. CULL.

NASHVILLE, TENN., May 1st, 1866.

COR. SEC. W. F. A. C.:

DEAR SIR,—My report shows a great discrepancy between the number enrolled and the average attendance, as it did last month. This arises from the fact that my pupils are most of them adults, and almost without exception in part or wholly, dependent upon their own exertions for a livelihood. Some of them are regularly irregular, losing two days in the week from school, which are spent in washing and ironing. Fifteen are married women. Those, in addition to their household duties, often do large washings after school. Nothing trivial keeps them from school, and when absent they do their utmost by study at home, to keep pace with their classes, and generally succeed in doing so. Their anxiety to learn does not flag. It increases with the acquisition of knowledge. At first they wanted to read a little—some of them would add "so as to read the Bible." Now, they begin to be anxious to write their own letters, and in this branch their progress is often surprising. Arithmetic was quite beyond their ambition—I speak of the women, and older ones particularly. Now, some who a month ago could not count twenty, are as much interested in learning the multiplication table, as they then were in the beginning to read in the First Reader.

But with all their eagerness, their progress is slow. There are exceptional cases, but my observation confirms me in the opinion, that slavery debases the mind as well as the body. If its withering effects had stopped here, however, our work would be comparatively light. The religion of the seemingly pious is often merely emotional, so that we feel that this is truly a missionary work. We find ignorance and superstition, idleness and vice, intemperance and want, going hand in hand, as they are always found where the light of the Gospel is shut out, or shines but dimly. We are doing what we can towards the cultivation of habits of neatness and cleanliness and thoroughness. The Bible is daily read and explained. Our Sabbath school is well attended, mostly by our day scholars. One woman, a member of my school, repeated eighteen verses last Sabbath. She reads in the Second Reader, by no means fluently, so that memorizing is, for her, a difficult process.

The law requiring the Freedmen to take out licenses and be remarried, has made weddings very frequent of late, and some of my pupils were discussing these novel proceed-

ings a few days ago. Said one of them, "I tell you, girls, it is nothing to laugh at. It is a thing that means something. It's a disgrace to us, and to our old masters, that we never were nobody, and treated just like cattle; but now, (turning to me,) you's all come down to make people of us, and now we means to be people." This is our encouragement; they evidently "mean to be people."

Yours respectfully, C. M. SEMPLER.

GALLATIN, TENN., May 4th, 1866.

DR. R. S. RUST:

KIND FRIEND,—The general progress of the school is very fine. The pupils are getting along nobly with their studies. I have a married woman who has been attending school about five months; she has a family, and an aged mother, who is almost helpless with rheumatism, that demands her care, still her desire for knowledge is so great, that she is at school almost every day. She now reads in the Third Reader. She also attends Sabbath school, and last Sabbath recited forty verses.

We are encouraged by the gratitude that the colored people almost invariably exhibit. We trust that through our labors many souls will eventually be led to Christ, and we have some evidence that the seed we have been sowing has fallen on good ground. One Sunday afternoon I went to visit a girl about eighteen years old, who has been sick all winter, and whom we have been helping from time to time. As I entered her room she lifted her arm, commenced swinging it back and forth toward me, shouting and telling what the Lord had done for her soul. She thanked me repeatedly for what I had done for her, and wanted I should meet her in heaven. I read and prayed with her, and she enjoyed it greatly, and said she was ready and willing to go whenever Jesus called her. The same evening we attended a meeting of the colored people, and had the pleasure of seeing four or five of our scholars go forward as mourners seeking the salvation of their immortal souls.

Yours in a common cause,

CHARLOTTE M. BLAKE.

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., March 1st, 1866.

REV. DR. RUST:

KIND SIR: . . . I am confident that the relief rendered here by the Western Freedmen's Aid Commission has been a great help to the colored people. Many, I think, would have entirely perished, had it not been for assistance in this way. To-day a woman in very destitute circumstances came to me for relief, who said she had five children at home, all sick with small-pox, but one, I think. She herself feeble, and just recovering from the same disease, and no one to provide or assist her. I am frequently called on in the same way. Nearly all seem anxious to get a little spot of ground for a garden, that they may raise a few vegetables.

An old man (who says his master told him he would be a hundred years old this month) whom we have been helping, is making garden, and has his seed sown. The most seem willing to try and help themselves as far as they know how.

Respectfully yours,
HANNAH HUGHES.

ATHENS, ALA., May 2, 1866.

DR. RUST:

DEAR BROTHER,—Your kind letter reached me. Many thanks for your words of cheer. I believe I was never more in need of such a stimulant than now.

Our school is progressing finely notwithstanding the trials to which we have been subjected. We have high hopes that look for their realization in the hearty co-operation of Christians everywhere, and the blessings of the Father, without whose notice "not even a sparrow falls."

Since Mrs. Sturges left, my increased duties have well nigh overwhelmed me; and in teaching two rooms, though the spirit was willing, the weakness of the flesh would assert itself with tremendous force. But in all this toil my glad heart sings Hallelujah continually, and I hope to pilot some children of Ham to the land of Canaan.

In great haste, yours truly,
M. F. WELLS.

HELENA, ARK., April 26, 1866.

REV. R. S. RUST:

DEAR FRIEND: . . . I closed my school on the 24th with a sad heart, feeling many regrets at having to go North ere the close of the school year. All the schools, four in number, met together on the evening of the 24th as a token of love to me. I sang with them all the songs of praise I had taught them, and then we united in prayer. Each one passed out with a kind "Good bye, Miss Flora."

I have visited almost every cabin in Helena, reading the scripture and tracts, and conversing with them on the duty of cleanliness, industry and economy. I know that my labor has not been in vain, and feel doubly repaid by seeing, already, some good results. It has been my earnest desire to benefit these people in every possible way, and where I have erred it has been in judgment, not in purpose. My prayers are with this good work.

Respectfully, FLORA DAY.

MOBILE, ALA., April 9th, 1866.

DEAR BROTHER,—Your last came to hand in due time, and I can assure you it was a welcome messenger, and spoke words of comfort to our desponding hearts; such letters speak volumes to us. We at times become greatly cast down; we have no friends to go to in our hours of sadness, and at times we are almost overwhelmed; and were it not that we have a "Friend that is ever near," we should have given up the work long ago.

But notwithstanding all our trials, we have many "tokens for good." A deep religious feeling is manifested in the school, by the older scholars. Many are inquiring "the way to Zion." Our morning exercises are very solemn and impressive. Whole classes remain after school for prayer and conference with their teachers. We believe that this is the Lord's work, and it is marvelous in our eyes. We believe also that He will carry it on over all opposition, and crown it with success. . . .

E. C. BRANCH.

CHICAGO, February 23d, 1866.

DEAR SIR:

. . . . I have had charge of the colored school in Chicago for the past eighteen months. I began my labors with nine scholars, but steadily increasing until there were over one hundred names enrolled, and quite frequently one hundred present during a single evening. The largest number began with their letters; these are now reading well in the Second, Third and Fourth Readers, according as they have had opportunity to attend. I have also a class in geography, arithmetic and writing. They learn more easily than any class of white children I have known. Many of them learn the entire alphabet in a single evening; others will read words of two and three letters well in one week. They are very obedient, respectful and grateful; they try to help themselves in a way that might make many ashamed; and in proportion to their number receive less help (as reports of our charitable institutions will show) than any other class of poor in our city.

There has been a great interest on the subject of religion manifested for some weeks past, and a number of my scholars have been hopefully and intelligently converted. I believe the school has been, in every respect, all that its kind friends and supporters could desire.

Respectfully,

ELIZA CHERRIE.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., Feb. 6, 1866.

DEAR FRIEND:

. . . . On the 5th of December last, I found the Chaplain* zealously engaged in educating the soldiers. By his indefatigable exertions, he had taught about half of the soldiers of the regiment to read. He had classes in the First, Second, Third and Fourth Readers; he also had an Arithmetic class, and a class in Geography. He received me cordially, and we have labored harmoniously together. He gave me charge of a class commencing in the Alphabet, which numbered about 60; a class in the First Reader numbering 40. The commencing class is now reading in the First Reader; the other class is reading in the Second Reader, and also studying Mental Arithmetic and Geography. I have been giving Writing lessons to the Second, Third and Fourth Reader classes. . . .

D. DAILY.

* Chaplain Railsback, 44th Regiment U. S. C. Inf.

MEMPHIS, TENN., March 25th, 1866.

DEAR SIR: . . . We have a Sabbath school, which I am pleased to say is very largely attended. The children seem to take a great interest in it; and a large number of old persons, that cannot attend school during the week, flock to the Sabbath school. They say perhaps they will learn enough to read the Bible, that is all they seem to crave.

I am thankful that I am permitted to assist in teaching them to read that Holy Book, and pray that the Ruler of all will give me strength and wisdom to do my part.

Respectfully yours,

GRAFFIE A. GRAHAM.

The Freedmen's Bulletin.

CHICAGO, MAY, 1866.

MORAL WORK OF THE FREEDMEN'S COMMISSIONS.

But little has been said in regard to the moral influence of the societies that are laboring in behalf of the Freedmen, and yet it is a subject of grave importance. No people are naturally more susceptible of religious impressions—none more likely to receive with an implicit trust the teachings of those who are their benefactors. The influence of the teachers who labor faithfully among them is almost unlimited, and hence their opportunity to plant the good seed of truth or sow the tares, is constant and inviting. Were this relation of the teacher to the freed people fully understood by the religious public, there would be more careful inquiry than there has been, or is, as to the policy of societies professing to labor for the elevation of the Freedmen and as to the moral character of the teachers they send to the field.

The Freedmen's Aid Commissions being organized outside of all ecclesiastical connections and maintaining a strictly undenominational character, the probable tendency would be to under-estimate if not misjudge their religious influence if it even approximate what it should be, as people have (and not without some cause) learned not to expect very positive and well-defined moral results from so-called undenominational and catholic efforts. The above-mentioned tendency is rendered more likely from the fact that there are some societies organized within or supported by particular denominations which assume to comprise about all the religious

influence now operative in schools among the Freedmen.

The Freedmen's Aid Commissions in the West are organized not only on a religious, but on a positive and evangelical basis. While their Officers and Boards of Directors are drawn from various denominations, and together form a representative class of men for the whole West, their names, positions and opinions are too well known to leave any doubt as to the moral character of public agencies of which they have the control. These bodies widely removed from each other, acting independently and without consultation, adopted substantially the same policy as to the character of teachers they would maintain, for they alike appreciated these two facts, viz.: first, that the moral influence of their teachers and agents among the freed people would be very great; and secondly, that the largest share of the funds contributed to the cause, would come from and through the churches.

The propriety and wisdom of this policy has been fully vindicated by the results. The teachers, almost without exception, have gone to the field of labor from a sense of duty—impelled by convictions such as prompt other christian laborers to go to more remote though no more needy mission fields. It is easily understood that such teachers would find many opportunities even while engaged in the school-room, to communicate moral truths. It will never be known how many hours they have given to visiting among the homes of Freedmen, reading to them the sacred Scriptures, and directing their thoughts to divine things. Wherever there have been day schools, there have been Sabbath schools, comprising the same scholars and conducted by the same teachers.

Within the past three years these Commissions in the West have had more than four hundred different persons laboring as teachers at various points in the Mississippi Valley. Few of these have remained in the field less than six months; some who were among the first appointed are still in the field; a few have been at their posts without any vacation. The influence of this band of laborers—earnest, zealous, conscientious christian men and women—is not to be measured or estimated, though we may know that while it is great, it all lies in the direction of a pure morality and a true elevation.

Letters from our teachers and from others in the South, which have been laid before our friends through these columns—letters written simply for the information of the societies, have more than indicated the wholesome influence of the schools located and maintained by the western Commissions. At this writing there is a deep religious interest among the schools at Mobile, and at other points—a religious interest awakened and encouraged through the instrumentality of the teachers. Professed missionary societies are doing a good work among the freed people, but the religious influence and character of their schools are no more marked and positive than that exerted by the agents of the undenominational organizations of the West.

For three years our work of relief and education among the Freedmen has really been a pioneer movement, preparing the way for the church with its means of evangelization—not for any one denomination, but for all that see the open door and hear the Master's call. Relief administered in the spirit of charity, true sympathy manifest by kindly deeds rather than words, have taught that poor people new lessons in regard to religion. Twenty thousand of their number can read now to whom three years ago the Bible was sealed as well as chained. The constant increase of our work of education, and the decrease of our work of relief, only widens the moral influence of the Commissions, and education the handmaid, becomes the forerunner of religion.

It has been generally recognized that the war would prepare the South for the aggressive movements of the church, and the denominations as so many divisions of the grand army, have been marshalling their forces for the work before them, but they have not yet found the vulnerable point. The freed people are the open door for missionary efforts in the South—their unprecedented and irrepressible desire to learn to read is the Macedonian cry, and the churches that heed these things are the ones that will do most for the redemption of that land from the withering results of slavery and the curse of sin.

It need scarcely be added that by encouraging the Freedmen's Aid Commissions every patriot and christian can augment the strength of the agencies that are now preparing the way for and inaugurating a christian civilization that will ultimately elevate the whole South and bless the whole nation.

MITEs.

We quite frequently receive contributions to the Freedmen's cause in anonymous letters through the mail. Most of them are from ladies, judging by the handwriting, and we have reason to believe that most of these remittances are made only through personal sacrifices on the part of the donors. May God reward them openly for what they thus do in secret for humanity. Such are these missives:

Dear Sir,—Enclosed please find 35 cents for the Freedmen.

CHICAGO, 1866.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed please find three dollars and fifty cents for the Freedmen.

From a FRIEND.

SCATTERED FAMILIES.

The Freedmen's Aid Commission, through its agents and teachers who are laboring in the South, is enabled in some measure to repair the fearful breaches that slavery and the war has made in the families of the colored people. By writing letters for the Freedmen to Agents of the Freedmen's Bureau and others, they succeed in bringing together members of the same household, who have been separated for years. The following letter of inquiry in behalf of a colored man at Rockford, Ill., is but one of many that illustrates the sadly broken and scattered condition of families among that people for whom we labor:

ROCKFORD, ILL., 1866.

DEAR SIR: . . . The case in which I am immediately interested, is that of John Comes, living in this place, who was freed by Henry Clay—purchased his wife, and was at the commencement of the war, living with his family on the plantation of John H. Robb, in Washington co., Miss., (on the river, three miles above Egg Point.) He was in the Spring of 1861 impressed into the rebel army, and his wife, Eliza Comes, he says, was again enslaved by Robb, together with their six children. Of the children, the eldest is Mary Ellen, aged 26; Augustus, 20; Moses, 15; and the youngest, Tiny, 3 years.

Yours very respectfully,

M. D. HENNESSY.

EVERY SATURDAY.

This Weekly is, in our opinion, precisely what it claims to be,—a journal of choice reading selected from current literature. The editor has the range of all the English and Continental Reviews, Magazines, and first-

class Weeklies, which press into their service the ablest, wisest, and wittiest writers of Europe. From this almost immense storehouse he selects that which he judges best adapted to suit the taste and intelligence of the American people.

The selections in the numbers already issued have embraced a wide variety of topics,—all of interest to cultivated minds, and nearly all of a character to be highly attractive to the majority of American readers. It contains the cream of foreign current literature, and is offered at a price that brings it within the reach of all.

Each number being complete in itself, it is just the thing for travellers; and each number is of such sterling merit, that it is just the thing for those who stay at home. It is published by Ticknor & Fields, Boston.

Cash Receipts of the Western Department of the A. F. A. Commission.

Jan. 9. Friend's Central Com., London, by A. Albright, £200,	\$1323 47
Jan. 20. One-half of Contribution from England, by Geo. C. Ward, Treas. A. F. A. Com., New York,	304 45
Feb. 2. Friend's Central Com., London, by Geo. C. Ward, £250,	1698 91
March 14. Thanksgiving Collection, Lafayette, Ill., by D. J. Hurd,	7 20
April 16. Rev. J. M. Walden, Cor. Sec'y,	540 00
Total,	\$2874 03

THE NORTHWESTERN
FREEDMEN'S AID COMMISSION,
ROOMS,
109 Monroe Street—Lombard Block,
P. O. BOX 2747, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

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Communications, including Remittances, should be addressed to "Rev. J. M. WALDEN, D. D., Post Office Box 2747, Chicago, Ill." Boxes of Clothing, etc., should be marked "NORTHWESTERN FREEDMEN'S AID COMMISSION, 109 Monroe Street, Chicago, Ill." The residence of the donors should also be plainly marked upon the box, and duplicate invoices of contents made, one to be placed in the box, and the other to be sent by mail to the Corresponding Secretary, as above.

Cash Receipts during March.

Altona, Union S. S. Infant Class,	\$5 00
Big Grove, Aid Society, by Mary J. Seymour,	10 00

Bristol, Wm. Greenwood, by Mrs. Dr. Wheeler,	\$5 00
Cayuga, Rev. H. J. Bethelheim,	2 00
Canton,	19 50
Cerro Gordo,	21 10
Chillicothe, by Rev. B. Applebee,	5 00
Chicago, Colored School, by Miss Cherrie,	5 25
Clinton,	35 00
Columbia City,	8 53
Danville, F. A. Soc.,	100 00
Dixon, Rev. P. Camp,	1 00
Delavan, F. A. Soc., by R. Morey,	10 00
El Paso, additional,	29 05
" A. Stockwell,	1 00
Eureka, additional,	11 00
Farmington,	129 58
Freeport, M. E. ch., by Rev. R. McCutchen,	7 00
Fort Atkinson, by Rev. D. O. Jones,	1 00
Galesburg,	148 01
Greenwood, Ladies' Aid Soc., by Miss A. Whit-	40 00
tier,	27 00
Lake Circuit, by R. J. H. Thomas,	98 00
Lewiston,	100 00
" Friends,	10 50
McNeal's Chapel,	5 00
Mechanicsburg, J. N. Fullenwider,	8 00
Newark, Dr. G. W. Bower, by Rev. R. F. M.,	20 00
Nora, E. Stanton, by Rev. R. F. M.,	92 30
Pecatonica, M. E. and Cong. chs.,	12 00
Plainfield, Cong. ch., by Rev. J. A. Mack,	6 00
Princeville, by S. B. Smith,	5 00
Quincy, Ger. Cong. ch., by Rev. C. E. Conrad,	110 00
Rockford, Third st. M. E. ch.,	46 00
" Court st. M. E. ch.,	6 00
Rochelle, by S. S. Walker,	22 45
South Rockford, M. E. ch.,	11 00
Sparta, by Rev. R. Kirkwood,	10 25
Towanda,	1 00
Toulon, Rev. James Strickney,	4 23
Trivoli, M. E. ch.,	13 55
Twelve Mile Grove, M. E. ch.,	2 50
Wethersfield,	33 15
Woodstock, M. E. ch.,	

Wisconsin.

Rushford, Cong. ch.,	16 35
Bethel Grove, Union Meeting,	15 55
Block House, P. M. ch.,	1 25
Boice Prairie, M. E. ch.,	9 50
Calamine, Henry Wood,	2 03
Cassville, A. D. Ramsey,	5 00
" E. A. Kidd,	5 00
" L. S. Reynolds,	5 00
" O. McCartney,	10 00
" R. A. Kilbourn,	10 00
Evansville, Rev. G. W. De La Matry,	5 00
Elk Grove, J. Metcalf,	5 00
" Elsieha Richards,	5 00
" George Brown,	5 00
" L. McNitt,	5 00
Jenkinsville, Cong. ch.,	16 05
" Peter Carr,	30 00
Lanester, Union Meeting,	104 20
Lion, M. E. ch.,	19 00
Montfort, M. E. ch.,	21 20
North Elk Grove, M. E. ch.,	3 85
Platteville, P. M. ch.,	10 05
" Union Meeting,	35 00
" Cash,	15 85
Rock Church, M. E. ch.,	28 45
Sheboygan Falls, Ladies' A. Soc. by E. T. Bond,	2 00
Springvale, Alfred Cowley,	1 00
" E. B. Meredith,	50
Strong's Prairie, Rev. Mr. Jenks,	10 00
Tafton, P. N. Thornton,	2 00
" J. Batie,	5 00
Washburn, M. E. ch.,	15 00
Whig School House, M. E. ch.,	11 10
Whitewater, F. A. S., by Rev. E. J. Miner,	11 00

Iowa.

Burlington, Soldiers' Fair	50 00
Davenport, Rev. S. H. Riggs,	1 00
Epworth, by Rev. Jno. Lavery, add'l,	17 00
" Ladies' U. B. Soc., by Mrs. R. W.	
French, Secretary,	16 80
Jamesville, M. E. ch., by Rev. F. X. Miller,	10 70
Kosuth, by Rev. W. G. Kephart,	3 00
Marion, M. E. ch., by Rev. E. K. Young,	21 00
Marshalltown, Union Meeting, by Rev. H. H.	
Kellogg,	36 85

Washington, Eureka ch., by Rev. M. P. Darby-	
shier,	\$4 80
Washington, by Rev. John Harris,	9 00
Winfield, by Rev. E. L. Schreiner,	4 05

Minnesota.

Cannon River Falls, F. A. S. by L. Chapman,	10 25
Minneapolis, Rev. D. S. Dean,	1 00
Monticello, by Rev. D. Brooks,	22 25
Ottawa, Rev. H. Doesher,	5 00
Sterling, a Friend,	1 00
Winona, Rev. J. S. Peregrine,	5 00

Indiana.

Huntington,	77 03
" Friends' Soc.,	21 70
Plymouth,	59 00
Princeton, by J. D. Paxton,	50 00
Valparaiso,	102 00

Ohio.

Ironton, W. F. Wilson,	5 00
Ridgeville Corners,	11 85
Harrison Centre,	11 58
Napoleon,	85 55
West Toledo, by Rev. J. F. Bukhold,	6 00

Michigan.

Girard, by Isaac Bennett,	49 75
Jonesville, E. W. Childs,	2 35
Laphamsville, Rev. Isaac Baker,	2 40
Lexington, by Wm. Benson,	2 00
Salem, Union col., by Rev. R. J. Williams,	18 00
Ypsilanti, Mr. McAndrews, by Rev. G. P. Din-	10 00
dall,	

Connecticut.

Woodbury, by S. M. Barnes,	2 00
Cash items,	4766 78

Recapitulation.

Illinois,	\$1234 02
Wisconsin,	448 00
Iowa,	173 70
Minnesota,	44 80
Indiana,	359 73
Ohio,	119 98
Michigan,	84 50
Cash items,	4766 78

Total,

\$7181 21

Cash Receipts during April.

Illinois.

Belvidere, by John A. Fitch,	\$3 75
Butler,	17 05
Bunker Hill,	85 00
Byron,	62 08
Chicago, Sinai Congregation, Jewish ch.,	25 00
" by Miss Cherrie,	8 75
" George Armour,	100 00
" West Indiana st. M. E. ch.,	45 05
Chesterfield, by Mrs. Cooley,	2 75
Cottonwood Grove,	30 80
Donnellson,	8 00
Dorchester,	10 00
Dunton, Th. col. by H. Barrett,	5 00
Elm Point,	17 35
Evanston, by Mrs. Dr. Raymond,	3 00
Freedom, by Robert Wright,	17 00
Freeport, 1st Presbyterian ch.,	66 40
" 1st M. E. ch.,	87 60
" Evangelical Association ch.,	20 60
" St. John's ch.,	17 00
" J. S. Emmet,	1 00
Gillespie,	1 00
Hillsboro,	24 00
Hosington,	2 00
Irving,	1 00
Lacon, Mrs. Mary Gray,	10 00
Leaf River,	25 30
Litchfield,	20 00
Lockport, by Rev. Samuel Covell,	2 00
Morton, add'l,	13 00
Monticello,	30 60
New Milford,	34 35
Necomis,	16 00
Pecatonica, additional,	4 50
Rockford, Court st. M. E. ch. add'l,	9 00
" Third st. M. E. ch., "	35 50

Rosemond, add'l,	\$10 00	Jacksonville,	1 package.
Roscoe, M. E. ch.,	71 55	Monunk,	1 "
Stillman Valley,	83 95	Tarris,	2 "
Washington, add'l,	1 00	Rockford,	2 "
Waupausie, Mite Society, by Mrs. Goodrich,	32 00	Wenona,	3 "
Woodburn,	37 70		
Wisconsin.			
Bloomfield, M. E. ch.,	4 95	Iowa, Fairfield,	1 "
" P. Timby,	5 00	Legrand,	1 "
Dodgeville, M. E. ch.,	10 40	WISCONSIN.	
" P. M. ch.,	3 30	Appleton,	1 "
" Welsh ch.,	12 10	Berlin,	1 "
" Cash,	26 00	Lake Mills,	1 "
Hazel Green, German M. E. ch.,	3 00	INDIANA.	
Horicon, O. S. Pres. ch.,	30 53	Plymouth,	1 "
" Bapt. ch.,	17 05	Waterloo City,	1 "
" M. E. ch.,	6 98	MICHIGAN.	
" Cash,	1 00	Jonesville,	1 "
Jenkinsville, Cong. ch. add'l,	5 00	Total,	24 packages.
Kinnick Kinnick, M. E. ch. add'l,	2 50		
Lancaster, Henry Austin, by R. E. Murphy,	1 00	RECAPITULATION.	
Lake Mills, by C. C. Williams,	3 00	Illinois.....	14 packages.
Lyndin, P. M. ch.,	4 00	Iowa.....	2 "
" M. E. ch.,	20 55	Wisconsin.....	3 "
Milton, Cong. ch. add'l,	6 00	Indiana.....	2 "
" M. E. ch.,	1 00	Michigan.....	1 "
" Seventh Day Bapt. ch.,	29 24	No name.....	2 "
Mifflin, Union Meeting,	4 00	Total,	24 packages.
" Welsh C. M. ch.,	6 35		
" J. J. Davis,	1 00	THE WESTERN FREEDMEN'S AID COMMISSION.	
Nelson School House, M. E. ch.,	24 85	Office--No. 5 Ohio Medical College,	
Pleasant Grove, P. M. ch. add'l,	10 00	Store-Room--Same building, No. 57 W. 6th St.,	
Platteville, German Lutheran ch.,	8 65	P. O. Box 932, CINCINNATI, OHIO.	
Rock, M. E. ch.,	1 00	President.....REV. ADAM POE, D. D.	
Red School House, M. E. ch.,	2 00	(HON. BELLAMY STORER,	
Sawday,	12 00	REV. J. F. WRIGHT,	
Spring Valley,	34 00	Vice-Presidents.....REV. WAYLAND HOYT,	
Waupun, add'l,	6 00	REV. STARR H. NICHOLS,	
		REV. I. W. WILEY, D. D.	
Iowa.			
Burlington, Wm. R. Paine,	1 00	Cor. Secretary.....REV. R. S. RUST, D. D.	
Cedar Falls, J. Conrad by Rev. A. True,	5 00	Treasurer.....J. F. LARKIN.	
Fort Dodge, by Chas. F. Boyington,	20 00	General Agent.....LEVI COFFIN.	
Independence, Mrs. C. W. Pease,	20 60	BOARD OF DIRECTORS.	
" Miss Mary Pease,	1 00	HON. WM. PENN. NIXON, REV. J. M. WALDEN, D. D.	
Indiana.			
Elkhart,	50 00	REV. G. M. MAXWELL, D. D. E. HARWOOD,	
Laporte Center, Salem M. E. ch.,	3 85	J. F. LARKIN, REV. H. STORER, D. D.,	
Michigan City, German ch.,	10 25	REV. R. S. RUST, D. D., THOMAS KENNEDY,	
" Union Meeting,	35 55	M. SAWYER, R. M. WHITE,	
Plymouth, John L. Westervelt,	5 00	REV. J. M. REID, D. D., REV. W. C. McCUNE,	
South Bend, Colored People,	13 48	LEVI COFFIN, R. B. PULLAN,	
" Germans,	35 00	DR. J. P. WALKER, REV. A. R. RITCHIE,	
" Union Meeting,	125 00	REV. D. H. ALLEN, D. D., DR. WM. H. MUSSEY.	
Warsaw,	24 85	It is especially requested that goods donated for the relief of the freed people, be packed with care in strong boxes; that a list of the articles contained, an estimate of their value, and notice of shipment be sent by mail to the General Agent; and that the place from which they are sent be plainly marked on each package, numbering them where more than one is sent; otherwise it is impossible to account correctly for goods received, or forward them to points to the wants of which they would be specially adapted.	
Michigan.			
Bellevue, by Rev. A. Copelin,	13 00	Direct all goods to LEVI COFFIN, General Agent, Western Freedmen's Aid Commission, 97 West Sixth-Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.	
Buchanan,	28 38		
Leland, George Thompson,	1 00	Letters upon the business of the Society and in regard to educational matters may be directed to the Corresponding Secretary, Rev. R. S. RUST, D. D.	
Ohio.			
Ridgeville Center,	10 00		
Minnesota.			
St. Charles, a Friend,	1 00		
Cash items,	1398 73		
Recapitulation.			
Illinois,	1102 23		
Wisconsin,	202 45		
Iowa,	47 00		
Indiana,	402 46		
Michigan,	42 88		
Ohio,	10 00		
Minnesota,	1 00		
Cash items,	1398 73		
Total,	\$3896 25		
ROSWELL B. MASON, Treasurer.			
Cash Receipts for April.			
Ohio.			
Rev. Samuel Maxwell, agent, Marietta,	\$125 00		
Rev. J. R. Locke, agent, Mt. Vernon,	84 92		
Union S. School, O. W. Nixon, Columbia,	7 00		
Wm. H. Scott, Preston,	5 00		
Tilton's Lecture,	31 00		
Hassanreck's Lecture, Cincinnati,	57 00		
Rev. Samuel Maxwell, agent, Marietta,	60 00		
Mrs. Clarissa P. Olds, Johnstown,	10 50		
Rev. J. R. Locke, agent,	141 60		
Rev. Samuel Maxwell, agent, Marietta,	120 00		

Rev. John Q. Gibson, agent, Portsmouth, 104 60
Returned by Dr. Parrish, 106 84
" " Thos. Kennedy, 116 80

Indiana.

Rev. J. R. Stillwell, agent, Centreville, 56 98
Belinda Parrish, Mt. Carmel, 100 00
Rev. J. R. Stillwell, agent, Centreville, 12 60
" " " 90 00
" " " 325 43

Great Britain.

B. H. Cadbury, Birmingham, Eng., per Levi Coffin, £150, 912 15
Wm. Allen, London, Eng., per J. F. Larkin, £100, 680 10
John Greaves, Belfast, Ireland, per Levi Coffin, £20, 118 89
Total, \$1717 14

Recapitulation.

Cash from Ohio, \$970 16
" Indiana, 584 91
" Great Britain, 1717 14
Total, \$3272 21

The following letter was enclosed in a package contributed for the Freedmen. It is an interesting record.

MOUNT VERNON, O., Feb. 22, 1868.

This new calico for a dress and the second-

hand garments in the same bundle, are given by Martha Grey, a slave woman, who was brought up in Virginia, but sold with her two sons the Spring after the John Brown raid, taken down to New Orleans, where she was again sold and separated from her children, whom she has never heard from since.

While our army was before Vicksburg, she ran off from her master, walked twenty-five miles to our lines, traveling only at night, hiding herself in the day time.

She became cook for the 83d Indiana, afterwards for the 96th Ohio, where she earned \$5 a week. She was brought to Mt. Vernon, the winter of 1863, by one of the officers, where she is earning \$2 per week, and she liberally takes out of her earnings to assist her people now so much in need, and says she is only sorry she is not able to do more for them.

I write this to show you how capable she is of sustaining herself, as a proof of the experiment whether the negro can be self-sustaining.

With the ever-present desire that God will elevate the condition of her poor people, and through these dark days of transition and trial, that He will kindly dispose the hearts of all men towards them, is the prayer of

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